ASI fe also consulting the Central Building Research Institute for expert guidance.

Excise package for kutch area

*337. SHRIRAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to State:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has represented to the Central Government to extend the liberal benefits of excise package to Kutch area as has been extended to Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Himachal P'radesh; and

(b) if so, what is the response of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Gujarat had requested for making applicable to Kutch district of Gujarat excise duty exemption schemes similar to those declared for Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

(b) The matter was examined and, taking into consideration all material facts, it was decided not to make any change in the excise duty exemption scheme applicable to Kutch district of Gujarat. The scheme is valid for units established in Kutch district until 31.12.2005.

Funds for tourism related infrastructure

*338. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has requested each Ministry to set aside a certain portion of their funds for tourism related infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the reaction of each Ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Department of Tourism has not requested each Ministry to set aside a certain portion of their funds for tourism related infrastructure. However, Department of Road Transport and Highways and Planning Commission have been requested to give priority to projects providings road connectivity to major tourist destinations.

(b) Department of Road Transport and Highways and Planning Commission have responded favourably to the request.